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to the author, but there is a serious misconception involved in this portion of his discussion. There are likewise indications that the relation of iron deposits to coal deposits is not clearly understood.

In calling attention to these inconsistencies it is not intended to suggest that the book has no elements of merit and interest. There is an interesting sketch of German administrative policy; one wishes that it might have been longer and more detailed, but it is adequate as it stands. The economic discriminations against the provinces are described with much care, though there is real need of more extended treatment of a number of matters. The sentiment of the people before the war and during its course is indicated by much interesting material and brought out from many points of view, but here again one wishes the author might have chosen to tell the story at greater length.

*The European Commonwealth: Problems Historical and Diplomatic.* By J. A. R. MARRIOTT. (Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Oxford University Press. 1918. Pp. xi, 370. \$7.50.)

IN this volume are fifteen essays first published in British reviews and selected by their author "because, though not originally designed as steps in a coherent argument, they seem to possess a certain measure of unity and consistency". "The underlying unity of the book will be found in the problem presented to Europe by the evolution of the Nation-State and the working of the influential though illusive principle of nationality." Perhaps a better basis of unity is furnished by the subtitle, *Problems Historical and Diplomatic*. All the essays deal with European diplomacy, mainly of the last hundred years. Significantly enough, four out of the fifteen are distinctly upon southeastern Europe (including one on the Adriatic question), and the Polish problem has two fairly long essays devoted to it. The introductory chapter and the "Rise of Modern Diplomacy" are slightly technical in character, almost like a treatise on international law. The subject-matter in the "Hohenzollern Tradition" and in the "Problem of Small Nations and Big States" may be readily surmised. In "Democracy, Diplomacy and War", he discusses (as of 1916), among other things, whether or not a democracy can meet successfully autocracies and aristocracies based wholly on efficiency. "England and the Low Countries" contains a valuable historical survey. Finally, in "Projects of Peace", the author leads us from the Holy Alliance to the present "European Commonwealth", the welding of which into a league, with the consequent establishment of permanent peace, he considers to be the most vital result of the World War.

In general, the narrative portions of each essay are rather too concise, except for those who are already well acquainted with the ground. Owing to their sporadic origin, some repetitions (as in chapters II. and

III., III. and V.) are met with. Some essays suffer also from too close confinement to certain memoirs and other historical works upon which these chapters appear to be largely in the nature of commentaries. Each essay reflects a different time-atmosphere, ranging from just after the beginning of the World War in 1914 to near its end. This is somewhat of a tax upon the mental agility of even the maturer reader. The author's conclusions are naturally less valuable because premised upon conditions which have ceased to exist or to have the same weight as they did when the pages were written. Austria and Hungary, for example, certainly are now less vital factors in the Adriatic question than they were. Occasionally a propagandist tone is discernible, as in "World Politics" and in "Prussia, Poland and Ireland", justifiable perhaps in view of the circumstances.

The scholarly character of the book is beyond question, in spite of the strictures made in this review. Written with restraint, with an evident desire to arrive at the true facts and to draw only such deductions as are justifiable, the contribution to the literature of the World War and diplomacy is great, even if we suggest that it might have been greater had the author revised, consolidated, and condensed his material in such a way as to change it from a series of window-pictures of world politics into a connected series of demonstrations leading definitely up to his general conclusions.

As to errors discovered—if Austria (p. 197) had the nomination of Polish kings, it is hardly correct to say (p. 198-199) that Russia was responsible. John Casimir's reign (p. 192) should end in 1668, not 1665. "Premisses" (p. 236) should probably be promises. Three useful sketch maps, two of the partitions of Poland, one of the Adriatic, might escape notice, since they are not listed in the table of contents, though mentioned in the preface. Maps of the frontiers of nationality in eastern Europe would have been still more helpful. The omission of an index accentuates the lack of unity. Foot-notes, mainly referring to secondary authorities, are fairly numerous.

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*Belgium: a Personal Narrative.* By BRAND WHITLOCK, United States Minister to Belgium. In two volumes. (New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1919. Pp. xi, 661; vi, 818. \$7.50.)

THIS narrative gives a vivid picture of conditions in Belgium from the beginning of the war until April 2, 1917, when Mr. Whitlock left the country. No other book has so well portrayed the courage and spirit of the Belgians. The author is skillful in selecting significant details which reveal the indomitable character of the people, the "irrepressible *zwanze bruxelloise*" which delighted in eluding the German orders and in making them ridiculous.

Mr. Whitlock is at his best in descriptions of individuals. His pregnant words make of them living men: the revered Cardinal Mercier, the